



THE HOOT OWL

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SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1996 VOL. 34 #6

Saturday Nov. 9. Cosumnes Preserve Bird Census. Call John Schick for details at 464-8304. 7:00 at Willow Slough trailhead.

Sunday Nov. 10. **Field Trip: Caswell State Park**. A visit to one of the most heavily forested areas remaining in the county where winter resident species abound. The day use fee is \$5/car. Join Jim Rowoth at 8:00. 462-7512 for carpooling H.F.C./R.C.

Tuesday Nov. 12. **BUTTERFLIES OF CALIFORNIA, OUR NOVEMBER MEETING**
Bob Stewart is a naturalist with the Marin County Open Space District. An expert on many forms of wildlife, his expertise is butterflies. His program will contain many of the beautiful photographs he has taken of butterflies. He will also speak on their identification, natural history, conservation and how to attract them. 7:30 at Central Methodist Church on Pacific Ave. across from U.O.P. Refreshments, calendars, etc.

Saturday, Nov. 16. **Field Trip: Rock Creek/Salt Springs Reservoir**. Bald Eagles, other raptors and land & water birds are a probability. Co-leaders are Dave Wagner (943-6997) and Jim Vallely (369-4812). Meet at 7:30 at Burns Tower, U.O.P. for carpooling. R.C.

Sunday, Nov 17. Water Valley Oaks. 8am-10am. Call Karl Kothe for details 464-1004
Lots of rain before this date cancels, we also check out the birds in the Oak Grove Park.

Sunday, Dec 8. **Field Trip: Woodbridge Road**. Late fall & winter is a good time to check out this area. Good birds are guaranteed. Meet leader Kasey Foley, 473-3904 at the park & ride at the south-east corner of Hwy 12 and I-5 at 8am H.F.C., R.C.

Tuesday, Dec. 10. **IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP, OUR DECEMBER MEETING**.
Our traditional ID workshop in preparation for the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts. Join the local experts, Waldo Holt, Jim Rowoth, Kasey Foley and David Yee as they go over the basic as well as finer points of identifying many of the species we hope to see out in the field during the winter months. 7:30 at Central Methodist Church.

Saturday, December 14. Cosumnes Preserve Bird Census. Call John Schick for details at 464-8304. 7:00 at Willow Slough Trailhead.

STOCKTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT; SUN DEC 22. CALL; JIM ROWOTH 462-7512

WALLACE-BELLOTA BIRD COUNT; SAT. JAN 4. CALL KASEY FOLEY AT 473-3904

All levels of participant expertise are needed. The more we see, the more we can identify. Sign up for the Stockton area and, or the foothill count as SOON as you can. We need to plan the teams, don't assume we know that you are taking part.

NOTICE: ALWAYS CALL YOUR LEADER, AT LEAST SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE OUTING, THERE MAY BE CHANGES IN DATES, TIMES OR DESTINATIONS. H.F.C. means that heavy fog cancels and R.C. means that rain cancels the trip.



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

During the past 2 years change has been happening at National Audubon under the leadership of John Flicker. Most recently, leaders at the state level have launched a newly organized National Audubon Society California with the expectation that Audubon will lead in the development of conservation policies for the State. Currently there are 53 chapters with 67,000 California members. Surely with a focus on this state, conservation policies will be developed for the unique needs of our state. Funds raised here will remain here to maintain the organization. Last year the budget to run state programs was \$1.5 million. Please take the time to read mailings concerning the need to raise funds for the state organization. Mini Nagendran is the newly appointed Bird Conservation Director of NAS-California. She is a highly qualified individual who has great expertise and involvement in Cranes and their conservation, having been involved with these unique birds at both the state and international levels. We hope to have her as a featured speaker at a future program. Her interest in Cranes is an example of the statewide involvement of Audubon with local issues. Thousands of Sandhill Cranes make this part of the Central Valley their winter home. Most local residents have little knowledge of these magnificent birds. Ecotourism is a rapidly growing phenomenon that encourages education and better understanding of the environment. In 1991 "Wings Over the Platte" in Nebraska grew to 80,000 birders and friends who brought in \$15 million. Reports are growing of a boost to the local economy by these ecotourists. Now there is a group planning a local festival featuring our local Sandhills. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee, call Beth at the Lodi Chamber of Commerce, 367-7840. If you have never been aware of this local winter visitation and would like to learn more on a guided tour see the following article. The experience is sensational. Several members have requested the list of plants that recent speaker Jesse Grantham suggested to attract hummingbirds to your backyard. Our next meeting will be about butterflies and will include plants to attract those. Come and pick up some plant lists! NANCY BALLOT...PRES.

FALL IS PLANTING TIME

Many of the trees and shrubs mentioned by our speakers as useful in attracting birds or butterflies are available in our area. Port Stockton nursery carries many.

ATTN. COMPETITIVE BIRDERS '97 BIG YEAR
For the fun of it, how many birds did you think you can see in San Joaquin County in one year? 150? 200? Well, here's your chance. I, along with the San Joaquin Audubon Society, would like to invite all interested bird-nuts to participate in a big year shoot-out. For what purpose? First for the fun. Most can attest to the fun, camaraderie, and social aspects of birding, especially when there is a goal or purpose in mind. Secondly for the education. If you really want to know more about our local birds, their identification, status, distribution, and behavior, you have to get out in the field throughout the year. Thirdly, for competition. Most birders like a good challenge. Everyone is invited to participate, no matter what their birding abilities. There will be several levels of competition, so everyone will have a legitimate chance to compete and win. We will go over strategies and ways to help you achieve your bird counting goals. However, this will be a REAL competition with rules, etc. You will not be competitive if you are not willing to get out at least monthly and have a goal of at least 150 species. If you are interested, give me a call and I will send you more information. But remember, we start January 1, 1997!

Sincerely, David Yee: 365-1526

CRANING FOR SANDHILLS:

Enjoy magnificent flocks of sandhill cranes coming to roost at the California Department of Fish and Game's Woodbridge Ecological Reserve near Galt. A series of 2.25 hr, naturalist led public viewings to two properties (including one that is normally closed) are scheduled the first and third Thursdays and Sundays, Nov. 7 through Mar. 6, all late afternoons. Registration is required by calling (916) 358-2353. A \$5. donation per person is requested. Trips do fill quickly, so call early. Other birds typically seen are stilts, raptors, waders, shrike, swans, and songbirds.

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BIRDS...BIRDS...MORE BIRDS

9/2,2 R.B.Nuthatch, 2 Nuttall's Woodpec.
 W.Mendocino Sktn, Stockings. 9/7 at Lodi
 Lake, G.T.Towhee, Willow Flycatcher, Hutt
 & Warb. Vireo by J.Rowoth & M. Williams
 also B.T.Gray Warbler, Hermit Warbler,
 Chipping Sparrow at Acampo Rd and W.F.
 Ibis, R.n.Phalarope, Gtr & Lsr Yellowlegs
 and Swainson Hawk at Woodbridge Road.
 9/8 J.R. at Lodi Lake: MacG & Wilsons
 Warblers & R.B.Nuthatch, Stockton Rural
 Cem also R.B. Nuthatches. 9-11 Suga M.
 ob. first Sandhill Cranes:Woodbridge
 rd.9/13 Jim Valley Swainsons Hawk &
 Violet Green Swallow on Rock Creek Road.
 9/16 he observed N.Pintail, G.W. Teal &
 West. Grebe on Salt Springs Res. 9/29
 J.R. ob R.B. Nuthatch, W.T.Swift, W.W.
 Pewee & Y.R.Warbler at Sktn. Rural Cem.
 S.Stocking ob R.B.Nuthatch at U.O.P.10/11
 10/11 Rich Pedersen, K. Foley & Waldo H
 ob Prairie & Mourning Warb., Peregrine
 Falcon, Coopers, ShSh,Red Sh Hawks and
 Kestrel at Carmel River. Rich P, Kasey F
 & M.O. found Harlequin Ducks, Blk vented
 & Bullar's Shearwater, Pomerine Jaeger
 at Monterey. David Yee ob a Manx Shearw.
 there on the same date, 10/11. ON 10/14
 Jim V. ob Least Bittern, Amer. Redstart,
 Blk Skimmer & Elegant Tern at Santa
 Barbara. On 10/15 a RedSh Hawk was
 on the Delta Campus, S.Stokcing. 10/17
 Jim V. ob Varied Thrush, Wood Duck &
 Common Moorhen etc at Lodi Lake Park.
 10/18 a Belted Kingfisher was ob on the
 Calaveras River by Linda S. The Stockings
 also ob a "V" of Canada Geese going south
 over Sktn on that same date. "150" 10/23
 Nancy Greenwood reports a Great Egret
 sitting in the top of a pine tree catching
 rays in the am.

POINT REYES FIELD TRIP REPORT

Thirteen of us braved that chilly 6:00am hour
 to go to Point Reyes. Among our many sights
 were Pelicans, Loons, Western, Horned and
 Eared Grebes, Cormorants, Sanderlings & a
 Gull eating a live crab on the beach at Drakes
 Bay. In addition to Surf & Black Scoters we
 saw Gr Horned Owl, Cim Teal, Amer Widgeon
 and a BlkCrNite Heron. We had some new
 birders come along, new friendships were
 formed and we all had a good time. Don't miss
 your chance to try a trip. You don't have to be
 a premier birder to enjoy yourself. Kasey F.

HOW SONGBIRDS MAKE THEIR SONG

Singing instructions are relayed down a
 hierarchy of brain regions, getting prog-
 resively more detailed as they go. The
 firing patterns of the neurons in the high-
 er brain centers apparently specify the
 more complex components of the birds'
 songs, the syllables, which are collect-
 ions of notes, while the patterns at the
 lower level in this neural chain or com-
 mand define the basic sounds--most
 likely the notes themselves.

Science 273:1801-1802



AUDUBON ADVENTURES

This program is a bi-monthly newspaper for
 each student, plus a teacher's guide, for third
 through sixth graders. The newspaper covers
 areas of environmental education. San Joaquin
 Audubon sponsors some classrooms, but we need
 help!

Won't you think about sponsoring a class? Help
 our young people appreciate their world. The
 fee is \$35.00 per class. Make sure to arrange
 it with the teacher and include the teacher's
 name, # of students, grade and school address.
 Make checks payable to National Audubon Society
 and mail NOW to Dave Wagner, 659 W. Mariposa,
 Stockton, Ca. 95204.

COSUMNES BIRD FIELD CHECKLIST

Get the new, improved brochure which has new
 graphics, a new layout, and monthly abundance
 ratings.

The species list was compiled by a committee
 made up of San Joaquin Audubon members
 Lawrence Abbott, John Schick, and Terry
 Ronneberg, assisted by others. Terry was
 the chair of the committee. Terry received
 recognition as an outstanding volunteer as
 a result of his efforts.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of
 this revised check list, please send a self-
 addressed, stamped, business envelope to:

CRP BIRD CHECKLIST
 13501 FRANKLIN BLVE.
 GALT, CA. 95632

AUDUBON CALENDARS FOR SALE

Shop early for Christmas and support your local Audubon Society at the same time! We have Audubon Nature Calendars (\$10), Audubon Nature Calendars (\$10), Audubon Bird Calendars (\$10), Bird Calendars (\$10) and the ever popular Audubon Engagement Calendars (\$15). Get these beautiful Calendars at our General Membership Meetings, Board Meetings, or call (209) 473-3904. Remember this helps to support the San Joaquin Audubon Society

SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

Medium, large and extra-large 100% preshrunk cotton shirts are what you have been waiting for! The unique design of a Swainson's Hawk on its nest is by noted wild-life artist Keith Hansen. The shirts are \$11 each or 3 for \$30. Call 473-3904 or come to any General Meeting or board meeting. Get yours now to be ready for next summer.

THANKSGIVING BIRD COUNT

This unique count takes place on Thanksgiving day and lasts only ONE HOUR. Your count area is a 15 ft. dia circle, or cylinder. You may sit outside or inside! Sponsor: Humbolt State Univ. Contact Steve S. for your count form. 465-2729.



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